

REMARKS

The present application is a division of copending parent Application No. 10/023,185, filed December 18, 2001. The pending claims are claims 1-11. Claims 12-33 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please note that submitted herewith is a copy of the originally-filed Declaration, a copy of the originally filed assignment and a Request for Recordation and a copy of the Revocation and Power of Attorney filed in the above-identified application.

Applicants claim foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). A certified copy of the priority application PCT/EP98/02251, filed April 17, 1998, has been filed in parent Application No. 09/418,283, now U.S. Patent No. 6,397,670.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The listed documents are of record in parent Application No. 09/418,283, filed October 14, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,397,670, and parent Application No. 10/023,185. In keeping with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d)(1), copies of the listed documents and the International Search Report for priority Application No. PCT/EP98/02251 are not enclosed but may be found in the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the parent applications.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Murnane", is written over a horizontal line.

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